

# Half of Slain Woman's Body Found in Pool

Upper Portion, With Belt Tied About Throat, Is Taken From Sewer Excavation in L. I. City

Dead for 3 or 4 Days

Police Believe She Was Murdered Here After Struggle; Legs Are Not Found

The upper half of an unidentified woman's body was found yesterday morning wrapped in oil cloth and partly submerged in about a foot and a half of muddy water that had collected in a sewer excavation in a lot between the Rawson Street elevated station of the Interborough Railroad, Long Island City, and the yards of the Long Island Railroad.

Her skull had been fractured. She had been strangled, an attempt had been made to cut off the right arm at the shoulder, and there was a deep cut at the base of the right thumb. The lower part of the body has not been found.

## Half of Body Missing

After the torso had been removed a fire patrol wagon was driven into the lot and the water was pumped out of the depression. The police thought that the missing parts of the woman's body might be somewhere on the bottom of the stagnant pool. Nothing was discovered, however, except an assortment of rusty cans and sticks of wood. Ignasi Castelluccio, of 52 Fifth Street, Long Island City, found the body. Castelluccio is a laborer employed by the Department of Sewers. This is the second body he has found. Last year he came across the body of a child in an ash can.

Castelluccio came to the pool about 9:30 to wash his boots. The Packard automobile factory faces the pool, with the elevated railroad between, and factories are nearby. Queens Bridge Plaza is not more than a quarter of a mile distant. Castelluccio was accompanied by Ira Solomon, of Hollis Park Gardens.

Wading into the coffee-colored water, which stretches to a length of about thirty feet, and is about fifteen feet wide, Castelluccio came upon some oil cloth and pulled at it inquisitively. It offered resistance to his touch and seemed to be part of a bundle. He moved the bundle with his foot and examined it. Then he called his friend and presently Policeman Phillip Dampman on traffic duty at Queens Boulevard.

## Death Due to Strangulation

In a short time Captain Ernest von Diezelski, in charge of the 15th detective district, and Captain Arthur Carey, of the homicide bureau, were on the scene, and with them were detectives Dr. William H. Nammack, medical examiner for Queens, was summoned. It was estimated that the woman had been dead for three or four days. She had been in the water for perhaps two or three days, it was said. Death was due to strangulation.

When the medical examiner and the police examined the body they found that it had been cut in two parts just above the hips. The spinal column was intact. The cutting was done cleanly, said Dr. Nammack, although it was not the work of one acquainted with surgery. A sharp, heavy knife had been used—possibly a butcher's knife. The torso was clad in a cheap cotton chemise and a silk camisole. A belt of olive green serge was tied about the neck and knotted tightly with a double knot. The police are of the opinion that it was the belt of a woman's jacket. The medical examiner thinks it was a skirt belt. It had hooks and eyes, and a green button on it, about the size of a half dollar.

## Head Wrapped in Four Shirts

Four shirts were wrapped around the head. One was a cheap cotton shirt, her own, the police believe, and the other three were men's shirts. These articles of masculine attire and the best clues the police have. One of them is a woolen undershirt with the trademark "Standard Fleece." The other two are shirts with a Bond Street trademark on them. They are size 14. One is a white shirt with yellow and lavender stripes and the other is white with yellow stripes. The woman evidently had struggled with her assailant for there was a deep cut at the base of the right thumb,

as if she had tried to ward off the knife. According to the medical examiner this wound was made while she was alive. The woman is believed to have been German or Scandinavian. From the medical examination made by Dr. Charles Norris, chief medical examiner, she had been a mother or about four months. She was about twenty-five years old and had blonde hair and blue eyes. Her ears had been pierced for earrings, but she wore none. Only jewelry found on her was a raffia ring on the little finger of the left hand. There was a black comb in her hair with several teeth missing, and a straight comb and a wire hairpin.

## Believe She Was Slain Here

According to Captain Carey the woman was murdered here and taken to Long Island City at night. Before death there was a struggle, during which she was hit on the right temple with some blunt instrument. The blow fractured her skull and made her lose consciousness. It did not kill her. The belt which was tied around her neck did that. Then the murderer, according to the police, dismembered the body so that he might dispose of it more readily.

There is nothing on the woman that lends itself as a ready means of identifying her. The chemise may serve the purpose, and a button has been known to have helped solve a murder in the past. The body has been removed to a morgue here. All the garments found wrapped around the head have been sent to a chemical laboratory for analysis.

Whether the murderer has managed to dispose of the lower half of the body is open to conjecture. The muscles and tendons were severed cleanly, and there is no evidence that the job was done by a man suffused with insane passion. The oilcloth—evidently a covering for a kitchen table—was made fast around the torso with a tightly tied string.

## Cann Grant May House Crooks

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22.—Use of Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill., as a penal institution for minor offenders convicted under Federal laws has been recommended by the Department of Justice, it was said today by Senator McCormick, of Illinois. The recommendation is before Director Forbes, of the Veterans' Bureau, but a decision has not been reached.

# Raid on Lapland As It Arrives Nets \$2 Spoils

Eight U. S. Inspectors in Charge of Expert Searcher Make Sudden Swoop as Passengers Disembark

Red Star Officers Protest

Child's Purse and Two Neckties Found After Hunt; Potatoes Investigated

Eight inspectors of the searching squad of Surveyor Whittle swooped down upon the Red Star liner Lapland, in last night from Antwerp, and ransacked the purser's office, the ship's strong box and safe, the quarters of Captain John Bradshaw and the rooms of every officer of importance on the ship.

The suddenness of the search, which started just as the passengers were disembarking, surprised and angered the ship's officers and the representatives of the Red Star Line who were aboard.

The customs raiders were led by Inspector Albert Hokenen, regarded as one of the cleverest searching men of the surveyor's staff, an official who has found and seized more opium, cocaine and liquor than any other inspector in the service.

After the raid the ship's officers said they had no complaint against the method of Hokenen's search, but they did protest against the search itself, a ransacking which they claim was not alone unlawful, but useless and productive of nothing.

When Hokenen was going through the ship's safe Captain Henry Lewis, marine superintendent of the Red Star Line, went into the purser's office and protested.

"By what right," he said to Hoken-

sen, "do you go through the ship's safe?"

"The right of the United States customs service to search any and all ships that come to this port," replied Hokenen.

"I question that right," replied Captain Lewis warmly. "This is a British merchantman flying the British flag, and you have no right to go into the safe of this office without a Federal search warrant." At this moment Hokenen was fingering a small leather case. "You have in your hand now the ship's private papers," continued Captain Lewis. "What right have you to ransack those papers?"

"I have the right to search them," responded Hokenen. "and you may see for yourself I am not molesting them."

While Hokenen and one of his men were peering with flash lights into the drawers and files of the purser's office two other inspectors had J. Van Damme, the chief steward, shut up in his room, turning his personal effects topsy-turvy in search of something. Just what the inspectors declined to say. Much time was given to an examination of a quantity of sample potatoes. Flash lights were turned upon each and every potato to see if it had been cut or if it had abrasions into which precious stones or other substances might have been pressed.

After a search lasting nearly two hours nothing was found except a child's small mesh purse made of German silver, worth about \$1, and two British-made neckties, valued at the same figure.

Joseph Caporin, the purser, a Belgian who has been with the Red Star Line for many years, said he was satisfied with the search because the customs men did not rip open partitions or break cabinets and lockers.

The rooms searched besides those of Caporin, Captain Bradshaw and Van Damme were those of Dr. Fernand Baseco, the ship's surgeon; his assistant, Dr. J. H. Apers; M. F. Howell, the assistant purser, and O. H. Monks, the chief engineer.

Officials of the Red Star Line said last night that they would protest against such interference and test the right of search without a Federal warrant. They said that the summary closing of the purser's office, where all the business of the ship is transacted, interfered with the convenience of passengers who were waiting for mail and telegrams left for them in the purser's care.

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